

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, comprising:
 - judgment means for forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units data through said network;
 - multiplexing means for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party,
 - wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that the first party initiated the action of transferring the data unit data and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that the second party initiated the action of transferring the data unit data;
 - and
 - transmission means for transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost by said multiplexing means through said network,
 - wherein the transmitted data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.

2. (Currently Amended) An information-processing method for information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, said method comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units data through said network;

a multiplexing step of multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that the first party initiated the action of transferring the data unit data and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that the second party initiated the action of transferring the data unit data; and

a transmission step of transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost at said multiplexing step through said network,

wherein the transmitted data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.

3. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program of an information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one more data units ~~data~~ through said network;

a multiplexing step of multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that the first party initiated the action of transferring data and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that the second party initiated the action of transferring data; and

a transmission step of transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost at said multiplexing step through said network,

wherein the transmitted data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.

4. (Currently Amended) An accounting-processing apparatus for settling accounting for data exchanged through a network, comprising:

judgment means for forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units ~~data~~ through said network by determining if a first magnitude or a second magnitude is multiplexed in said data,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that a first party initiated the action of transferring the one or more data units ~~data~~ and the second magnitude is a

negative magnitude indicating that a second party initiated the action of transferring the one or more data units~~data~~; and

accounting means for determining the party determined by said judgment means to be a side initiating an action for transferring the one or more data units~~data~~ through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network,

wherein the transferred data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.

5. (Original) An accounting-processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

first acquisition means for acquiring an amount of data exchanged through said network; and

second acquisition means for acquiring a unit price per unit data for data exchanged through said network,

wherein said accounting means computes a price of transferred data on the basis of an amount of data acquired by said first acquisition means and a unit price acquired by said second acquisition means.

6. (Original) An accounting-processing apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said second acquisition means further acquires a sign of said unit price, and said accounting means drives said transmission side or said reception side determined to be a side not initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting in case said sign is negative.

7. (Currently Amended) An accounting-processing method for an accounting-processing apparatus for settling accounting for data exchanged through a network, said method comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units ~~data~~ through a network by determining if a first magnitude or a second magnitude is multiplexed in said one or more data units ~~data~~,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that a first party initiated the action of transferring ~~data~~ the one or more data units and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that a second party initiated the action of transferring ~~data~~ the one or more data units; and

an accounting step of determining the party determined at said judgment step to be a side initiating an action for transferring ~~data~~ the one or more data units through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network,

wherein the transferred data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.

8. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program of an accounting-processing apparatus for processing an accounting process of data transmitted through a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units ~~data~~ through said network by determining if a first magnitude or a second magnitude is multiplexed in said ~~data~~ one or more data units,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that a first party initiated the action of transferring ~~data~~the one or more data units and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that a second party initiated the action of transferring ~~data~~the one or more data units; and

an accounting step of determining the party determined at said judgment step to be a side initiating an action for transferring ~~data~~the one or more data units through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network,

wherein the transferred data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.